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SIPDIS

USVIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12356: 7/13/00

TAGS:

SUBJECT: GRANIC SAYS CROATIA WILL NOT REACT TO
SREBRENICA, WANTS PRESSURE ON BELGRADE, LAYS
DOWN MARKERS ON UNCRO, BIHAC

11. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY AND COMMENT

12. SPEAKING JULY 13, CROATIAN FM GRANIC USED THE FALL OF SREBRENICA TO REINFORCE THE POINT HE HAS BEEN MAKING FOR SOME TIME, THAT BELGRADE IS RESPONSIBLE AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST EXERT STRONG PRESSURE ON MILOSEVIC. OVERALL, GRANIC'S MESSAGE WAS ONE OF REASSURANCE THAT CROATIA REMAINED COMMITTED TO PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE REGION'S PROBLEMS AND RESTRAINT IN THE FACE OF PROVOCATION. BUT HE DID LAY DOWN MARKERS CONCERNING UNCRO'S NONPERFORMANCE OF ITS MANDATE AND POSSIBLE SERB MILITARY THREATS TO BIHAC. REFERRING TO EVIDENCE OF A SERB BUILDUP AROUND BIHAC, HE MADE CLEAR THIS WOULD BE OF MUCH MORE DIRECT CONCERN TO CROATIA, AND COULD LEAD TO A "WIDENING OF THE WAR," THOUGH HE STOPPED SHORT OF PREDICTING CROATIAN MILITARY ACTION TO PRESERVE BIHAC'S "PROTECTED ZONE" STATUS. END SUMMARY

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AND COMMENT.

13. CROATIAN FM GRANIC CONVOKED AMBASSADORS/CHARGES OF CONTACT GROUP, UNSC, EU TROIKA, AND OSCE PRESIDENCY COUNTRIES JULY 13 FOR A REAOOUT OF THE CROATIAN VIEW OF THE FALL OF SREBRENICA.

SITUATION ON THE GROUND

14. REVIEWING THE SITUATION IN SREBRENICA AND ZEPA, GRANIC ADDED LITTLE TO WHAT THE UN HAS ALREADY PUT OUT. HE USED THE FIGURE OF 55,000 FOR TOTAL REFUGEES AND NOTED THAT MILITARY AGE MEN WERE BEING SEPARATED OUT AND WOULD BE CHARGED WITH WAR CRIMES. HE CALLED THE SERB ACTION IN CAPTURING THE "ONE TRULY DEMILITARIZED ZONE" IN B-H "UNJUSTIFIED," CLAIMING THAT CHARGES THAT MILITARY ATTACKS WERE BEING ORGANIZED FROM INSIDE SREBRENICA WERE GROUNDLESS AND COULD BE DISPROVED BY LOOKING AT THE LOW "RATIO OF WEAPONS" FOUND AMONG THE PEOPLE THERE. GRANIC SAID THAT THE NEW REFUGEES WOULD MOSTLY END UP ON FEDERATION TERRITORY, ESPECIALLY TUZLA AND ZENICA, AND WOULD DESTABILIZE THE SITUATION THERE BY FURTHER CROWDING OF AN ALREADY-REDUCED SPACE. NOTING THERE HAD BEEN MORE FIGHTING AROUND ZEPA, HE SAID CONFIDENCE THAT THE UN WOULD DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT ZEPA WAS "ALMOST NIL."

WARMONGER MILOSEVIC AND PEACELOVING CROATIA
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15. GRANIC ARGUED THAT NEITHER KARADZIC NOR MLADIC COULD DECIDE TO CONDUCT ACTIONS LIKE SREBRENICA WITHOUT MILOSEVIC'S OK. BELGRADE WAS ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION BY FORCE; THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS "APPEASING" HIM -- HE STEPPED UP THE WAR, JUST A FEW

DAYS AFTER A RENEWAL OF LIMITED SANCTIONS RELIEF, AND
 SUFFERED NO CONSEQUENCES.

16. THE GOC, SAID GRANIC, WOULD CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO
 THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE WASHINGTON AGREEMENT AND
 THE CONTACT GROUP PLAN. IT WOULD NOT RESPOND TO
 PROVOCATIONS, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT.
 "EVEN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS" WOULD NOT SWAY ZAGREB
 FROM ITS PEACEFUL COURSE. EVENTS IN SREBRENICA WOULD
 BIND CROATIA AND B-H MORE CLOSELY, AND CROATIA WOULD
 CONTINUE ITS STRONG SUPPORT FOR BUILDING THE
 FEDERATION. AS SOON AS THE LOGISTICS COULD BE WORKED
 OUT, TUDJMAN AND IZETBEGOVIC WOULD MEET WITH SENIOR
 FEDERATION OFFICIALS. (NOTE: GRANIC TOLD A/DCM JULY

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 SRPP-00 EB-01 H-01
TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-08 L-01 ADS-00 NSAE-00 OIC-02
PA-01 PRS-01 P-01 SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 STR-01
TRSE-00 USIE-00 SNIS-00 NISC-01 PRME-01 DRL-09 G-00
/029W

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O 131625Z JUL 95
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6401
INFO HQ JTF PP NAPLES IT//CA/POLAD//
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5-PMA/J21//
JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
USNMR SHAPE BE//POLAD//
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA/ISP//
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ4/ECJ5//
NSC WASHDC
NATO EU COLLECTIVE
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USLO SKOPJE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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10 THAT HE HAD CONCLUDED ARRANGEMENTS FOR A JULY 21
 MEETING ON BRIJUNI, WHERE TUDJMAN IS VACATIONING.)

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

17. CONTINUING, GRANIC SAID CROATIA WANTED A REVIVAL OF THE PEACE PROCESS AND TO THAT END, URGED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SEEK RENEWED PROGRESS ON PEACE THROUGH STRONG PRESSURE ON SERBIA; TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT UNDCRO FULFILLED ITS MANDATE; NOT TO LIFT SANCTIONS ON SERBIA UNTIL IT HAD RECOMMITTED ITSELF TO THE PEACE PROCESS AND RECOGNIZED BOTH B-H AND/AND CROATIA. THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AT THE BRIEFING, HE SAID, SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ACTIVATE THE PEACE PROCESS, INCLUDING USE OF UNPF, THE RAPID REACTION FORCE, AND PRESSURE ON MILOSEVIC.

BIHAC, THE ONE TO WATCH

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18. SEEING ALMOST AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT, GRANIC ADDED THAT CROATIA WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED BY OBSERVED "MASSING OF SERB FORCES" IN THE BIHAC POCKET, ESPECIALLY NEAR SLUNJ. HE SAID THAT ANY SERB ACTION TO TAKE BIHAC WOULD BE TAKEN "EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY." ASKED LATER WHAT ACTION CROATIA WOULD TAKE IF THE SERBS ATTACKED BIHAC, GRANIC SAID HE HOPED IT "WOULD NOT COME TO THAT" BECAUSE SUCH ACTION WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR THE SERBS IN "SEVERAL WAYS." GRANIC SAID TUDJMAN'S MESSAGE WAS THAT IT WAS CRUCIAL TO "ACCELERATE THE PEACE PROCESS," AND THIS WAS WHERE CROATIA'S EFFORTS WOULD CONCENTRATE. HE NOTED THE POSSIBILITY OF "INDIRECT HELP," E.G., SUCH AS HVO ACTION IN LIVANSKO POLJE, WHICH HAD "HELPED RELIEVE PRESSURE" ON THE BOSNIAN V CORPS WHEN BIHAC WAS THREATENED AT THE END OF LAST YEAR. (NOTE: AT ONE POINT GRANIC SAID THAT AN "ATTACK ON BIHAC BY THE SERBS WOULD CERTAINLY WIDEN THE WAR" BUT THIS WAS NOT TRANSLATED BY THE INTERPRETER.)

19. SARAJEVO MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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